

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01307 171946Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 171900Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 321

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 1307

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), GT

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 036640, STATE 037544

1. I HAD A VERY USEFUL AND CORDIAL CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD MORNING FEBRUARY 17 CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA. I EXPLORED WITH THE PRESIDENT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT COME TO COSTA RICA FOR AT LEAST THE LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY AND THEN RETURN TO GUATEMALA WITH THE SECRETARY IN HIS PLANE. I EMPHASIZED THE UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY THIS WOULD PRESENT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TALK WITH THE SECRETARY AS WELL AS THE DISTINGUISHED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL BE ABOARD THE PLANE. WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET THE PRESIDENT SAID HE SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

2. I THEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PRESIDENT THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVELY PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA WHICH AS YOU WILL SEE ATTEMPTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SOME OF THE THOUGHTS EXPRESSED IN BOTH REFTELS. THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE TAKES THE GREATEST POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF DAYLIGHT, MINIMIZES SECURITY PROBLEMS, AND AVOIDS THE NEED FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION EXCEPT FOR THE BRIEF MOVE FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE AIRPORT TO THE COMANDATURA LOCATED MIDWAY DOWN THE AIRPORT RUNWAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01307 171946Z

A. TIMING: ARRIVAL 1625, SUNSET 1807, DEPARTURE 1830

(TOTAL TIME TWO HOURS FIVE MINUTES; ONE HOUR FORTY TWO MINUTES TO SUNSET)

B. ACTIVITIES:

ARRIVAL, INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS (10 MINUTES)

HELICOPTER TOUR OF DEVASTATED AREA (30 MINUTES)

INSPECTION, AT SOUTH END OF AIRPORT, OF LOADED CHINOOK WITH CREW AND OF TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR REOPENING OF ATLANTIC HIGHWAY TOGETHER WITH US ARMY ENGINEER PERSONNEL INVOLVED (20 MINUTES)

MOTORCADE FROM SOUTH END OF AIRPORT TO COMANDATURA (5 MINUTES)

PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AT COMANDATURA (30 MINUTES)

PRESS CONFERENCE AT COMANDATURA (15 MINUTES)

MARGIN OF UNUSED TIME (15 MINUTES)

3. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE SUGGESTED SCHEDULE AS OUTLINED. HE EMPHATICALLY AGREED WITH MY SUGGESTION THAT FOR PRACTICAL AS WELL AS PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES THE SECRETARY AND THOSE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY ACCOMPANYING HIM ON THE HELICOPTER SHOULD COME OFF THE PLANE WITHOUT COATS AND NECKTIES AND WEARING WINDBREAKERS OR ROUGH, WARM JACKETS. LAUGERUD TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN OFFERING TO FLY WITH THE SECRETARY IN THE SPECIAL USAF HELICOPTER WHICH WE ARE ARRANGING THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS TO BE PRESENT FOR THE SECRETARY'S USE. HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR THE RETURN FROM THE CHINOOK AREA TO THE COMANDATURA A SPECIAL CAR FOR THE SECRETARY WOULD BE UNNECESSARY SINCE HE WOULD EXPECT THE SECRETARY TO RIDE WITH HIM IN THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE WHICH IS FULLY ARMORED. THE PRESIDENT WAS ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT ADEQUATE TIME WAS SET ASIDE SO THAT HE MIGHT HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. I HOPE THAT THE ABOVE PROGRAM WILL BE APPROVED BY THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GUATEM 01307 171946Z

SECRETARY AS I BELIEVE IT: (1) MAKES THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF DAYLIGHT TIME; (2) PRESENTS AND EXTREMELY USEFUL VIEW OF PART OF THE DEVASTATED AREA WITH THE MINIMUM OF AIR TIME ; (3) EMPHASIZES US ASSISTANCE AND ROLE OF SOUTHCOM THROUGH THE VISIT TO THE CHINOOK AND ARMY ENGINEER PERSONNEL; (4) PROVIDES A REASONABLE TIME FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION; (5) INCORPORATES TIME FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE US, INTERNATIONAL AND GUATEMALAN PRESS; AND (6) GETS THE SECRETARY

OFF ON TIME.

5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF THE ABOVE
SUGGESTIONS MEET WITH THE SECRETARY'S APPROVAL.
MELOY

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NNN

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